

24-30 Month Play Ideas

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Play is a natural way for your young child to grow and learn. Activities in this list support key areas of development from your ASQ. Start with easy ones and see what they enjoy. Help your child build important skills while having fun.

Communication

Your child's language skills, what they understand and what they can say.

Children at this age love outings. One special outing can be going to the library. The librarian can help you find fun books. Make a special time for reading (like bedtime stories).



Your child will begin to be able to make choices. Help them choose what to wear each day by giving a choice between 2 pairs of socks, 2 shirts, and so on. Give choices at other times like snack or mealtime (two kinds of drink, cracker, etc.).



Gross Motor

How your child's moves their arms and legs.

Make an obstacle course using chairs, pillows, or large cartons. Show or tell your child to crawl over, under, through, behind, in front of, or between the objects.

Play a jumping game when you take a walk by jumping over the cracks in the sidewalk. You may have to hold your child and help him jump over at first.

Fine Motor

Your child's hand and finger movement and coordination.

Wrap tape around one end of a piece of yarn to make it stiff like a needle and put a large knot at the other end. Have your child string large elbow macaroni, buttons, spoons, or beads.



Give your child soap, a washcloth, and a dishpan of water. Let your child wash a “dirty” doll, toy dishes, or doll clothes. It's good practice for hand washing and drying.

Problem-solving

How your child thinks, plays with things and how they solve problems.

Collect little and big things, like balls or plates. Show and describe the big/little objects. Ask your child to give you a big ball, then all of the big balls. Do the same for little. Another big/little game is making yourself big by stretching your arms up high and making yourself little by squatting down.

During sandbox play, try wetting some of the sand. Show your child how to pack the container with the wet sand and turn it over to make sand structures or cakes.



Personal-social

Asks about feeding, dressing, and how they engage with others.

Show your child how to make snakes or balls or how to roll out pancakes with a small rolling pin using playdough. Use large cookie cutters to make new playdough shapes.



Find More Activities

Make “sound” containers from things that open and fit back together like plastic Easter eggs. Fill them with noisy objects like sand, beans, or rice and tape the eggs shut. Have two eggs for each sound. Help your child match sounds and put them back in an egg carton together.